

State of California  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
San Diego Region

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT  
September 14, 2005

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Waste Discharge Requirements: Southern California Edison Company, San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project. New Waste Discharge Requirements for fill and dredging of San Dieguito Lagoon and River. (Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0213). (*Michael Porter*)

PURPOSE: To prescribe Waste Discharge Requirements and issue a Water Quality Certification for the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration Project.

PUBLIC NOTICE: In accordance with CWC section 13167.5 and CCR section 3858(a), the public was notified of tentative Order No. R9-2005-0213 in the San Diego Union Tribune and the North County Times on July 1 and August 5, 2005, in the Regional Board website dated September 10, 2004, and by an interested parties mailing list dated August 5, 2005.

DISCUSSION: The Regional Board received applications for Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification on September 7, 2004, for dredging and filling associated with the restoration of San Dieguito Lagoon. The San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration and Coast to Crest Trail projects include several major project components: (1) excavation and maintenance of the San Dieguito river inlet channel to maintain tidal exchange, (2) replenishment of beach sand on Del Mar Beach; (3) restoration of tidal wetland areas; (4) construction of berms and slope protection measures; (5) vegetation of upland dredge material disposal areas; (6) construction of nesting areas; (7) construction of a portion of the Coast to Crest Trail and associated water quality features; and (8) construction and operation of a wetland mitigation bank.

The project will result in the discharge of waste, defined as the placement of fill material (e.g., soil, riprap, culverts),

into 2.112 acres of waters of the United States. The proposed project will restore and/or create 127.72 acres of waters of the U.S., consisting of open salt water, salt marsh, fresh water marsh, and riparian plant communities.

Southern California Edison (SCE) is responsible for implementation of the restoration components, while the San Dieguito River Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Coast to Crest trail and water quality features. The JPA is also responsible for the revegetation of upland areas except for dredge material disposal sites which will be revegetated by SCE. SCE will construct the California least tern nesting sites, but the 22<sup>nd</sup> District Agricultural Association will be responsible for their long-term maintenance. In accordance with the California Coastal Commission's permit for the operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), SCE is responsible for the long-term maintenance of the restoration areas for the operating life of SONGS (presently estimated at 40 years). After SCE has fulfilled their maintenance obligations, restoration areas would then be the responsibility of the JPA.

On August 31, 2005, the Regional Board received written comments (Attachment No. 3) from Southern California Edison and the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority on the Tentative Order No. R9-2005-0213.

**KEY ISSUES:**

1. This proposed restoration is mitigation required by the California Coastal Commission for impacts to fish from the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant cooling system.
2. Approval of this tentative order and water quality certification will improve water quality and beneficial uses in the San Dieguito River, Lagoon and Estuary.

**LEGAL CONCERNS:**

None.

**SUPPORTING  
DOCUMENTS:**

1. Fact Sheet for Tentative Order R9-2005-0213 for Waste Discharge Requirements and Section 401 Water Quality Certification: San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration and San Dieguito Coast to Crest Trail, San Diego County.

2. Tentative Order R9-2005-0213 for Waste Discharge Requirements and Section 401 Water Quality Certification: San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration and San Dieguito Coast to Crest Trail, San Diego County. This version of the Tentative Order has incorporated the appropriate changes recommended by Southern California Edison in a letter dated August 30, 2005, and by the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority in a letter dated August 30, 2005. The changes are shown in an underline / strike out format.

3. Letters of comment from Southern California Edison and San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

COMPLIANCE RECORD: None.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of Tentative Order R9-2005-0213 for Waste Discharge Requirements and Section 401 Water Quality Certification: San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration and San Dieguito Coast to Crest Trail, San Diego County are recommended.

